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Intelligence Checklist

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March 24, 1975

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Intelligence Checklist

March 24, 1976

ARGENTINA: *The long-expected armed forces coup against President Peron took place early this morning. Peron is under detention, and a junta composed of the three service chiefs is to assume executive authority.*

Most Argentines had long since come to regard Peron's ouster as inevitable. Civilian activity in the capital last night was reported to be normal, indicating no great concern over the coup.

Army commander in chief General Jorge Rafael Videla is expected to be the senior man in the new government. His regime inherits a deteriorated economy, widespread terrorist violence, and monumental political divisions.

There are significant differences within the military over how to solve the nation's problems. The bulk of the officers seem to favor a market economy that can attract foreign investment, but some advocate economic nationalism. They are also divided over the amount of political restrictions. The magnitude of the problems will strengthen the arguments of those officers who favor strict controls.

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